

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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REMEMBER!

(A Memorial Day Message)

"Remember now thy Creator . . ."—Eccles. 12:1.
"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."—Psa. 103:2.

"This do in remembrance of me."—I Cor. 11:24.

" . . . we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."—Rom. 6:5.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said . . ."—Acts 20:35.

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."—Matt. 24:42.

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(Preached at Victory Center and broadcast on Christian Business Men's program, WMBI, May 30, 1946)

There are a lot of "remembers" in the Bible, and I want to talk to you today about some of them.

Remember Thy Creator

First of all, remember God. Remember the Creator. That is the general term for the Trinity. That means to remember God the Father, and remember God the Son, and the Holy Spirit, perhaps. It certainly means that everybody ought to be God-conscious. I pity people who live like brute beasts, who do not know there is a God.

I feel sorry for people who eat food and do not look up to say, "My God gave this. My heavenly Father gave this." I feel sorry with an infinite compassion for poor, ignorant people who go through life as if there were no God, no hereafter, no Heaven, no Hell; as if they were no more than a hog or a cow. God have pity on people who do not remember God.

"Remember now thy Creator"—that ought to be the easiest thing in the world for anybody. Here is a world. Somebody made it. I am here. Somebody made me. David exclaimed, by divine inspiration, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Here is a body; here is a brain; here is a consciousness; here is a personality. All right, there is a God. Look out tonight through the curtain of the starry heavens and listen: they cry out to blind and deaf men that there is a God! "The heav-

ens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." (Psa. 19:1-2). Remember your Creator!

And the Scripture says, "Remember thy Creator IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH." Did you know that you can do memory work better than you are young? Youth is the golden age of memory. How sad for anybody to let this golden age slip by and not get the matter of remembering God firmly implanted in the heart. I hope you will say, "God will be always in my thoughts. I will remember God."

Remember God's Blessings

Next, the Scriptures make it clear that we are not only to remember our Creator, but we are to remember God's blessings. It is a terrible sin to be thankless. You may have ever so many hardships; you may lack this or lack that. You may say, "I wish I had better clothes." You may say, "I am not satisfied. I don't get enough meat these days." You may say, "I wish we had more butter." You may say, "I wish sugar wasn't rationed." You may say, "I have trouble getting a good suit." You may say, "I wish I had more money." But of all the poverty, there is no poverty in the

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THE "ASKABILITY" OF FAITH

By EVANGELIST MERV E. ROSELL, D.D.

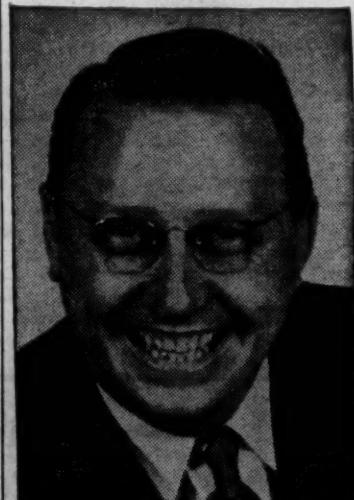
Box 11, Rochester, Minnesota

Under the title, "Why Men Pray," the astute editors of the world famous LIFE magazine devoted the complete editorial page of a recent issue to remind our nation that "With God all things are possible." Matt. 19:26. Say they, "Spurred by reason, fear or today's headlines, large numbers of Americans are rediscovering an old truth; mankind cannot live by bread alone. Scientists, philosophers and ordinary men are arguing themselves into a position which might be called the Limbo of Faith in Faith.

"The custom of prayer is as old as human awe and it still takes countless moods and forms. As the ancient Egyptians used to bully their gods, so the Australian aborigines carried a severed hand to which he would say, "Guide me right or I throw you to the dogs." Moslems prostrate themselves on a rug; Tibetan Buddhists write their supplications on tiny flags and stick them in a mound for the wind to carry away; Catholics finger their rosaries; Quak-

ers sit together in silence. From every corner of the world, at every hour of the day and night, to one

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Dr. Merv Rosell

FOLLOWING JESUS

By REV. BOB JONES, D.D., LL.D.

Founder and President, Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee

(Sermon preached in Life Begins Campaign, Chicago, Sunday night, April 28, 1946. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD)

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him." —Matt. 9:9.

You will notice that this is a personal invitation given by our Lord to Matthew. But the invitation to follow Jesus has pressed its way down the years and is extended to everybody in this building tonight. Of course, we use this in a figurative sense. You cannot follow Jesus Christ literally. Sometimes people say, "What would Jesus do?" You remember that very popular book in this country which expressed that sentiment. I would not discount it. The sentiment was beautiful. The idea of the book is, "What would Jesus do under certain circumstances? What would Jesus do if He were here just as I am?"

I am speaking reverently tonight. Did you ever stop to think that you have problems to solve Jesus did not have to solve? Jesus was not a married man. Jesus was not a mother. Jesus did not live in Chicago. Jesus did not transact business in the complex business world in which you and I are living. Jesus Christ never traveled by automobile. Jesus Christ never went up in a plane. I am speaking reverently when I say that you have problems He did not have to solve. So the big question is not what Jesus would do. The big question is this: "Do I possess Jesus and does Jesus possess me?" If I possess Him and He possesses me, then under all circumstances in life I will do just what I ought to do. Every relationship will be right. I will be the right kind of father, the right kind of husband, the right kind of wife, the right kind of mother, the right kind of citizen, the right kind of employee, the right kind of man or woman. Every relationship will be right if I am under the control of Jesus Christ.

Down in Alabama years ago I knew a man and a woman who had been married for fifty years. The man was unusually small and a blond. His wife was extremely large and a blonde. But that man and that woman actually looked alike. I used to look into his eyes and see an expression that made me think of the eyes of his wife. I used to look into her face and see features that reminded me of the face of her husband. For fifty years this man and this woman had gone life's way together. They had spent Christmas holidays together. They had been on picnics together. They had been up at the hour of midnight about the bedside of a sick child together. They had gone to the cemetery together to bury some of their children and had come back home to mingle their tears together. For fifty years their lives had been so mixed and mingled and blended until she had in her life a part of the life of her husband, and he had in his life a part of the life of his wife. If two human beings may commune until they become like each other, may not you and

I commune with Jesus Christ until we, to some extent at least, become like Him?

Paul understood this when he reached mature old age. He looked from his dismal prison cell and said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father, is, to some extent at least, reproducing His life in the life of every consecrated, godly Christian man or woman.

When Were You Converted?

Do you remember when you were converted? Some of you know the time and the place. Let me stop just a minute to say that you do not have to know the time and place, but you had better be dead sure there was a time and you had better be dead sure there was a place.

A man said to me not long ago, "I do not believe in instantaneous conversion." There is no other kind of conversion but instantaneous conversion. You may not know when it happened, but if you are a Christian it did happen. You may not know just the second it took place, but if you are a Christian there was a moment in your life when you stepped out of darkness into light and out of death into life. You may have gradually come up to the line, but there was a moment when you stepped over; and if you did not step over you are still a sinner; you are dead in trespasses and sin. You do not have to know just when you were saved, but you had better be dead sure you are saved.

A great preacher said to me, "I do not know just when I was converted. Sometimes the devil comes to me and says, 'You can-



Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

not tell when it happened.' And I say, 'Well, I will claim Him right now as my Saviour.'

Some of us remember the time and the place. With some of us it is the memory of a church altar in the old home town. With some of us it is the memory of what we call the "mourners' bench" in some church down South. With some of us it is the memory of the old family altar where our fathers led in prayer. With some of us there may be the memory of the old barnyard back at the old country home. With some of us there may be the memory of a lonely spot where we met God for the first time under the starlit sky of midnight. But some of us remember the time and place. There was that moment when everything became new, and we saw as we had never seen before; we heard as we had never heard before; we felt as we had never felt before. God did that for us in a moment. Say, if God can do that for a man in a moment, what can not God do for men who will

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HURRY! HURRY!

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By carelessness and delay now you may fail to do what you intend to do, may fail to have God's blessing. Don't commit the sin of omission and neglect! Won't you send your subscriptions today?

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Following --

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live surrendered lives for ten or twenty-five or fifty consecrated years? If God can so transform in a second, what could not God do in a lifetime if given a chance.

Listen, we read in the Bible that the hour of prayer had come. Peter and John started to the temple to pray. They had been through the most wonderful epochs in the history of the world. They had gone through the lonely hours when Jesus hung on the cross. They had gone through the lonely days when His body was in the sepulcher. They had gone through the glorious manifestation when He came out of the tomb. They had fellowship with Him this side of the grave. They had gone through that glorious experience when they saw Him climb an invisible stairway back to the sky. They had gone through that glorious manifestation when cloven tongues of fire came down at Pentecost.

Do You Keep Your Dates With God?

Now there they were—these men going along at the hour of prayer on their way to a prayer meeting. Say, they had "kept a date with God. Do you keep your dates with God? You have a date with Him to read your Bible every day. Do you keep it? You have a date with Him to meet Him in prayer in some place of fellowship. Do you meet Him? At prayer meeting every week you have a date with God. Have you been keeping it?

The hour of prayer had come and Peter and John had started to the temple to pray. They said, "We have a date with God; it is time to go." They got to the gate of the temple and found a poor, crippled man who had never walked. He lifted his trembling hand and asked them for money. They said, "We do not have any money, but we have something better than money. We will fix you up so you can make some money." That is the best charity in the world. One of them reached out his hand, and the poor cripple got hold of it. He got on his feet and found he could stand alone. Then he went on into the temple, leaping and bounding and praising God. Are you surprised? Suppose you had never walked in your life. Suppose you had been sitting at the gateway of this building tonight, a poor, helpless cripple. Suppose other people had been walking by and you could not walk. Then suppose somebody helped you on your feet. Suppose somebody said, "Now you can walk." Don't you think you would have come into this building leaping and bounding and praising God?

Some of us remember when we made our first step heavenward. One day Jesus passed. His brow was pierced by many a thorn. He came by. We looked up at Him as He said, "Wouldn't you like to walk?"

We said, "We can't walk. Every time we get up we fall down. We are poor, crippled people."

He said, "I will fix you so you can walk." He reached out His nail-pierced hand.

I got hold of that hand one day. That hand that made all worlds gripped my hand. He pulled me to my feet. Eternal life and victory swept through my soul, and I made my first step toward Heaven. I did not shout. You may think I am excitable, but my pulse just beat sixty times a minute. I am very intense but not very excitable. I have never shouted in my life, but I wonder how a fellow could be a Christian and not shout. I have thought of it a thousand times. To stop and think what it means to walk

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the shining road with the Son of God to a cloudless sky is enough to make men shout!

Men shout over everything else. In this Arena men have shouted. Games have been held here when men went wild with excitement. A man can make a safe run home on a baseball diamond and the crowd shouts over the victory, and nothing is said about it. On the street corner is a group of men. One of them tells a joke and they mingle their shouts of laughter, and there is nothing said about it. Some folks are in the country at a picnic. It is a day of rest and pleasure. Young folks stroll down through the forest. One of them plucks a beautiful flower near a rippling stream and sends up a shout of laughter. Nothing is said about it. A little child looks down the street and sees his daddy coming. He claps his hands with glee and shouts and says, "Daddy is coming!" And there is nothing said about it.

But a wayward, ruined sinner with his back on Heaven and his face toward Hell, groping his way through the darkness of time to eternal night, feels about him in the gloom until he gets hold of the hand of Jesus. When he feels that touch he says, "Hallelujah! Glory to God!"

And somebody says, "Don't get excited, brother!"

We applaud men when they come home, scarred from battle. We applaud men when they are elected to office. We applaud men when they win athletic contests. But the angels applaud men when they come to God. Over the battlements of Heaven right now the angels look down on this Arena. They say, "Yonder is a sinner. Don't you hope he will come to Jesus? See that boy back yonder? His mother has been praying for him. That other fellow back there has a mighty good Christian wife. That girl over there has a good, sweet Christian mother. Wouldn't it be wonderful if she should come?" They listen over the battlements to the preacher. Then after a while the invitation is given, and some sinner starts down the aisle. The angels burst out saying, "Give him a hand! Give him a hand!" They lean over the battlements of the sky and applaud. It is wonderful to be a Christian. It is wonderful to keep step with Jesus Christ up this shining road.

Miraculous Cure

We read in the Bible about a woman who had a disease of the blood. She had tried all the doctors. She had been to the homeopaths, the allopaths, the osteopaths, the chiropractors and all the rest of them. I imagine she spent her time telling about her doctors and her operations. She had tried all the doctors and had about given up. But one day somebody said, "There is one Doctor who can make you well if you can ever get in touch with Him. I have seen Him unstop the deaf ears and make a man hear. I saw Him open blind eyes and make a man see. That Doctor chased leprosy away with His touch. That Doctor can cure the palsied. There are no hopeless cases when He is around. He can actually raise the dead. When He goes around dead folks get up out of their coffins!"

The woman said, "If He ever comes to my town I believe I will try Him." One day somebody said to her, "Have you heard the latest? The Doctor is in town!" She said, "Is He really here?" "Yes, He is here."

"I believe I will see if I can get in touch with Him," she said.

I imagine she told her friends that she wanted to go. They said, "You had better stay away from all that excitement down there in that Arena. I would not have anything to do with it."

She said, "Well, I am in a bad fix anyhow. It can't be much worse with me than it is, and I think I will try it." I think she got up and began to dress. In my imagination I can see her now. I think she might have been nervous, trembly and maybe a little irritable and sensitive. After a while she said, "Good bye,

children. I am going downtown and see if I can do anything for myself."

She started down the street, stopping once in a while to lean on her cane. A little later she saw a great crowd. She said, "He is in that crowd somewhere. I don't know how I will ever get to Him, but I am going to try." And, listen! Nobody ever wanted to get to Jesus but that there was a way to Him. You may have to sail bloody seas and scale the mountains and climb over walls and go through bayonets and fields sown with dragon's teeth; but if you want to get to Him you can.

I see her as she approached the crowd and began to press her way through. One person and then another let her by. I think I see her as she put her trembling hand on the shoulder of an old fellow and said, "Mister, won't you let me by?" He was hard and coarse, but he looked at her in pity and said, "Yes, come on by."

She came up to a little girl and said, "Honey, won't you let me see if I can't get to Him just to touch Him?" The little girl stepped out of the way.

After a while she got as close as she could get—but that is as close as anybody has to get to Jesus, just as close as he can. She took her cane and put it in her other hand. I think I can see her as she trembled for just a moment and said, "I will see if I can reach Him." She reached over and just touched His garment with her fingertip and stood back sound and well! Do you suppose she ever forgot that touch? She is probably talking about it in Heaven tonight. She is no doubt telling the angels and the redeemed about it.

Get Close to Jesus

You can get closer to Jesus than to touch His garment. You can touch Him, Himself. Right in front of you tonight is a nail-pierced hand. If you want to you can reach up and get it. You can grip it and it will grip you. You can sing the song, "Where He leads me I will follow." You can say, "It may be over mountains and across plains, but I will go with Him all the way."

"Oh," you say, "Bob Jones, that sounds good." Well, Buddy, it is better than it sounds! No poet who ever wrote music could tell you how wonderful it is.

"But," you say, "I can't understand it." You do not have to understand it. That is the beauty of it. When I came to Jesus Christ I did not know what the words vicarious and substitutional meant. I did not know theological terms. I was an eleven-year-old country boy. All I knew was that God loved me and Jesus died for me and wanted to save me. I got to Him, and ever since that time I have been studying the wonders and the glory and the explanation of it. I did not understand it then. You do not have to have much sense to be a Christian. (That ought to be a lot of comfort to some of you!)

Did you ever stop to think that you do not have to have much in your head to be a Christian? You just have to have a willing heart. You do not have to understand how food is digested to eat food and get nourishment. You do not have to understand how medicine cures. All you need to do is to get the medicine. You do not have to understand everything in the Bible. I have a lot of things I am going to ask Jesus about when I get to Heaven. There are some things in the book of Revelation I have never quite understood. There are some things in the book of Daniel that I have never quite understood. There are some marvelous things all through the Bible that I have wondered about and prayed over.

But there is one thing that is clear as the light of the clearest noonday, and that is the road to Heaven. That road is well-marked. You do not have to miss it. There may be some mysteries connected with the road, but the road itself is clear and definite and you do not have to miss it. If you want to know how to go to Heaven—Jesus is the way. Do you want to know how to go to Heaven? If you do, come to

Jesus and trust Him—that is all. Do you want to know how to be saved? Look to Jesus to save you—that is all.

Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come!

Listen! I have never seen a man lost because of his inability to understand. You talk about "honest doubters." Jesus Christ settled that question forever. He said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself."

Do you know what the trouble with you is? You are not willing to pay the price. It is not a popular thing to be a Christian. There never has been a time since Jesus Christ died on Calvary when it has been a popular thing to be a Christian. It is not a popular thing in Chicago. Oh, it may be popular to be a church member, but it is not popular and never has been popular to be a Christian.

Not Popular to Be a Christian

I remember when I started in the ministry a young man said, Bob, are you going to be a preacher?"

I answered, "Yes."

"Are you going to preach the truth?" he asked.

I said, "If I know it."

He said, "You won't be popular."

I said, "What are the smiles of men worth? They will vanish like morning clouds and float away like bubbles on the screen."

What does it matter what the world thinks of you? What does it matter? You live today; tomorrow you die; the next day you are buried; the next day you are forgotten. Listen! Isn't a man a fool who would go back on God for the smiles of a world that would not miss him if he were dead?

Popularity! Somebody said to me about a certain man: "He hasn't an enemy on earth."

I said, "He is no good!"

You cannot move without producing friction, and you cannot stand for Jesus Christ without producing friction. The world was not against Jesus Christ because He was bad. The world was against Him because He was good and the world was bad. People tried to make Him bad and drag Him to the low level on which they lived. And when He was tried in court the judge said, "I can't find anything against Him." Because they could not find anything against Him they put Him on a cross. The world is against everybody who lines up on the side of Jesus Christ.

I was talking to my banker, a fine Christian man, the other day. He said, "Dr. Bob, why is it that some people will curse a good Christian college like Bob Jones college and other Christian colleges? Why are people against them? The young people in them are decent, clean and fine. They do not drink and smoke and gamble and swear. Why on earth are people against Christian colleges?"

I said, "Brother, the devil is not against a bank. The devil is not against a grocery store. The devil is not against a dry goods store. The devil is against a Christian testimony. If you were to put a

sign out in front of this bank which would say to this wicked world, 'This bank stands without apology for the blood of Jesus Christ. This bank stands without apology for salvation by grace through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus,' you would line up all the demons against your bank."

The moment you step over on the side of Jesus Christ, that moment you line up wicked men against you.

Popularity! Popularity!

I remember a woman in the South once said to me, "Mr. Jones, I have such a lovely daughter. She is very popular. I do not know why she is so popular." I did not tell her that I did not understand it either—I had already seen her! I could not figure it out!

The meeting we were in went on for a few days, and one day the mother of that very popular girl came to the front. She found God. After she found God she looked up to me and said, "I want you to help me save my daughter. I must get her converted." I could not resist the impulse; I said, "You have been ambitious for her worldly position. You have pushed her into society. You have pushed her so far that I am afraid we cannot reach her."

The campaign closed and the girl was left in her worldliness and frivolity without God. Two years later I lectured in a town near there. When I came from the stage in the opera house a girl with a prematurely old face—the kind of face that a girl should not have, a face that was tired and worldly and worn and unhappy—came down the aisle. She said to me, "Do you remember me?"

I said, "Why, yes, Miss Annie. How are you getting along?"

"Oh," she said, "just the same."

"Are you still a sinner?"

"Yes, I suppose I am a hopeless case."

There are mothers in Chicago who would rather see their daughters popular in society than to see them have front seats in Heaven. The reason some folks do not walk with Jesus Christ is that they would rather travel with the crowd.

One day a woman said to me, "I would like to be a Christian, but if I were to come down the aisle of this tabernacle and take a stand and accept Jesus Christ, I would have to give up my crowd."

I said, "No, you wouldn't."

"Oh," she said, "I would."

I said, "No, you would not. If you were to walk down this aisle and take Jesus Christ as your Saviour and come out on His side without any apology, that godless, good-for-nothing, frivolous gang would give you up and save you the trouble." You do not have to give the world up; the world drops you when you step on Jesus' side. But I would rather be with Him who is not so fickle. I would rather walk alone with Him than to travel with the crowd to Hell!

Popularity! Popularity!

Memory Is Short

I have seen in my lifetime the men whose names have been famous in my day. I remember when I was a boy we heard one day about William Jennings Bryan's capturing a convention. Not long ago I was in Washington and went (Continued on Page 3)



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out to the cemetery where the dust of Bryan sleeps. The man at the cemetery told me that more people ask for Bryan's grave than any grave in the cemetery except the grave of the Unknown Soldier.

I have seen him still the thousands with his eloquence. I saw him in New York during the last Democratic convention he ever attended. I sat in the gallery amid hissing, mocking hoodlums when they said, "The old man has reached the age of toothless senility." I saw him stand there and with eloquence I had rarely ever heard hush that crowd into silence and respect.

But William Jennings Bryan is dead and sleeps the sleep of death in a silent tomb. He used to stir the hearts of millions. But how long has it been since you thought of him? When did you ever think of Bryan? He has been dead only a few years.

I could mention others. I could talk to you about William McKinley. I was in Ohio recently in his home city. I said to somebody, "How long has it been since you thought of McKinley?" I remember when he died. I was a country boy in Alabama. I remember how we unfurled the flag and how we wept to think a good president was dead. When did you think of him? He has been dead a little while, but when did you think of him?

Let's call the roll of others. There was Teddy Roosevelt, the "irresistible Teddy," the "Big-Stick Teddy," that man who shook a continent when he walked! But he is dead. He died from an infection and sleeps the sleep of death with other teeming millions who used to live, too. When did you ever think of him?

Think of Woodrow Wilson, who for a little while probably rose to higher heights of fame than any man in human history. For a little season the name of Woodrow Wilson stirred hope in the hearts of men as few names have ever stirred hope. I was in Washington recently and visited the cathedral. I said, "Oh, this is his tomb."

They said, "No, that is not his tomb. That is just a marker on his grave. He is buried in a secret place of the cathedral. He is not here; that is just a marker."

Wilson is dead. When did you think of him last?

I could call the roll of others. Think of Franklin Roosevelt, the man who we said was indispensable; the man we said the world could not run without. He died. You can hear his voice now in memory saying, "My Friends . . ." He was the man who seemed unbeatable, and yet he is dead. You do not think of him very often now. In a few years you will not think of him at all.

Homer Rodehaver told me the other day, "Bob, it is the strangest thing in the world; I can go into high schools in this country and ask the students in those schools, 'How many of you ever heard of Billy Sunday,' and scores and scores of them never even heard of Billy Sunday, that man whose name in the religious world was a household word in this country."

Listen! People will not remember you until you get cold! If you died tonight, in thirty-six

SERMONS BY JOHN L. BRAY

1. The Blood of Christ.
2. "God Sparred Not His Son".
3. The Future Home of the Saved.
4. The Gospel of Christ.
5. What Does the Future Hold?
6. How to Pray the Bible Way.
7. Some Precious Thoughts About the Bible.
8. The New Birth.
9. Hell, and What God Says About It.
10. The Comfort of Heaven.
11. Hell—God's Penitentiary for Sinners.
12. "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"
13. We Need a Revival!
14. "I Believe God!"
15. The Challenge of the Saviour.
16. "So Great Salvation."
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hours we would put you to bed with a shovel and cover you up with dirt and forget you. And yet some of you here tonight will turn your back on Jesus Christ for a world like that.

Do you know why you do not go with Him? You do not want to give up sin.

Now get this straight: giving up sin never saved anybody. Sins are simply limbs on the tree of sin. Sawing off limbs does not get rid of the tree of sin. Quitting a bad habit does not save a sinner. It is not what you give up that saves you; it is what you get when you take Jesus that saves you. It is not giving up something; it is getting something that saves people. Get that straight!

Christ Must Be First

But at the same time remember that you cannot have Jesus Christ as long as you have a sin you had rather have than to have Him. I am sick and tired of this superficial sort of Christianity we have in this country! If you want Jesus Christ, you must want Him more than you want anything or you will not have Him! You cannot have anything in preference to Him. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Your god is the thing that is first in your life. If you have something else that is first, you cannot have Jesus. You must put Him first. You will notice that the Scripture did not say, "You must not have a bad god." You must not have any god, not even a good god.

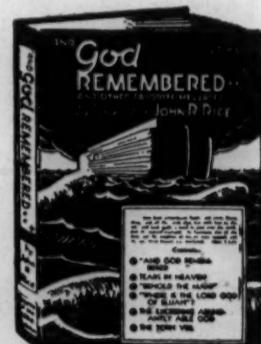
If your church is first with you, you are a sinner. If your lodge is first with you, you are a sinner. If your wife is first, you are a sinner. If your baby is first, you are a sinner. The only man who is a real saint is the man who puts Jesus first.

JESUS FIRST!

Years ago when I was a young preacher I was holding a meeting in a town in the South. I was staying in a little hotel in the town. There was a lovely little girl about sixteen years old there. She had big black eyes. I never saw a girl her age with as much pep. She would blow in that house like a cyclone. She was all over the place, and she was irresistible in her magnetism and

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personality. I like folks like that. Deliver me from people who have nothing to them. I do have some respect for the prodigal son. He made a bad record, but he did make a record! I like folks who have something to them. I like to see folks like that saved.

That girl would come to the service. She did not care a thing about my preaching, but she liked to see me sweat. And she enjoyed the singer's pep. I used to watch her big, black eyes beam.

One night the Holy Ghost got hold of her. Oh, brother, when He gets hold of people! I could see her as she began to cry. I just kept pouring it into her soul. When I finished I said to the people, "If you want to be saved, come to the front." She did not wait for anybody else; she led the procession. Down the aisles the people began to come after her. I went and sat down by her. She was crying the biggest tears, I think, I ever saw. I said, "Do you want to be saved?"

She said, "Mr. Jones, I—I don't see any harm in dancing."

I said, "I haven't said a word about dancing. You ought to trust Jesus."

She said, "But I don't see any harm in dancing."

I said, "Wait a minute. Who is talking about dancing? Why are you bringing up that subject?"

"Well, I don't see any harm in it," she said again.

"Well, what are you worrying about?" I said. "I am not talking to you about that. I want to know if you will trust Jesus."

"Well, I don't see any harm in dancing."

Do you know what was the matter with that girl? She had been to one or two little dances at the town hall. She had smelled the perfume of the flowers. She had heard the music go out over the

air. She had had the thrill of the whirl, and that night Jesus looked at her and said, "Which, which—that or Me?"

She said, "I want you, Jesus; but I want that, too."

Jesus said, "Which—that or Me?"

She said, "I want—I want You, Jesus; but I want that."

Jesus said, "You will have to choose tonight. You must put one or the other first in your heart. Which is it?"

Does Anything Keep You From Jesus?

Now, don't misunderstand me. Do not misquote me! I do not say that everybody who dances goes to Hell. I say—and I will meet you at the judgment seat of Christ on it—if the dance keeps you from Jesus Christ, the dance will send your soul to Hell. Anything that keeps a man from Christ will damn him, whatever it is. If it is a shop or a store, or gold or cards—or anything else that keeps you from Jesus Christ—it will damn you. If you want Jesus you must want Him more than you want anything else, or you cannot have Him.

Let me tell you another story quickly. Years ago in a meeting down South I said, "If anybody here wants to be saved, come up to the front. Jesus can save you."

A great many people came, and down the aisle with others there staggered the bummiest old bum I think I ever saw. His hair was matted with dirt. His eyes were bloated and bloody. His clothes were ragged. His body was vermin infested and dirty.

I am always happy to see an old bum saved, but I am so glad God saved me before I got to be a bum. And I am going to be honest with you: it was never easy for me to put my arm around a dirty person. I think there is a lot of good, old-time religion in a soap and rag. The first thing any

bum in this town who is converted will do is to take a bath. I haven't any confidence in any man's Christianity who does not take a bath when he ought to have it.

The old dirty, filthy bum knelt at the front; and I thought, "I could have been just like him if my father had not taken me to a revival when I was eleven years old."

There were a lot of nice, decent people kneeling, too; but I went over and put my arm around the old bum and said, "Do you want to be saved?"

I can see him now as he looked out of those bleared, bloody eyes and said, "Do you think Jesus could do anything for me?"

I said, "Yes, sir, Jesus can save you."

"Well," he said, "you s-s-ee I'm an old drunkard."

I said, "Jesus can save an old drunkard."

"Well," he said, "You know, I've been a drunkard for thirty-seven years."

I said, "Jesus can save a man who has been a drunkard for thirty-seven years."

He said, "J—just a m-m-inute. I was thinking about it back there tonight when you were talking. I d-d-don't believe there has been one day in ten years that I have been sober."

I said, "Jesus can save a man who has been drunk for ten years."

"Well," he said, "j-j-just a m-m-inute. I s-s- suppose y-y-ou've noticed that I am slightly intoxicated tonight."

I said, "Jesus can save a man who is drunk tonight! Will you trust Him as your Saviour?"

He looked at me for a moment. I saw a little expression of restored manhood come to his bloody eyes. He lifted his trem

(Continued on Page 4)

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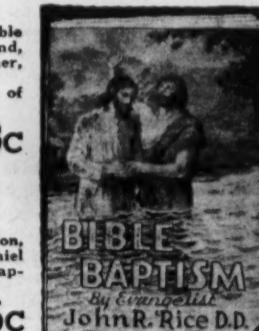
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Following --

(Continued From Page 3)

bling hand above his head for a moment. Then he let it fall on the bench. He said, "I'll die before I'll ever touch another drop! Save me, Jesus; save me now!" Then he said, "You know, I'm saved." I did not even have to tell him; the Lord told him. He said, "I want to join the church right away." I did not know but one church represented there that could take him in on the spot and that was a Methodist church. A Methodist preacher was standing there. I said, "What church do you want to join?"

He said, "My wife is a Methodist." I called the preacher over to where we were. He took him to one side, gave him the vows of membership and took him into the Methodist church. I kept up with him. He lived a sober, triumphant, victorious, witnessing Christian life for seven long years and died a triumphant, victorious death and shouted his way home to God.

Listen! Any man who wants Jesus above everything else can have Him and get victory the moment he wants Him like that.

No Easy Place on Road to Heaven

"Oh," you say, "Bob Jones, it is hard after you start." That is right. If there is any easy place on the road to Heaven, I have not reached it yet.

Must I be carried to the skies

On flowery beds of ease
While others fought to win the prize

And sailed through bloody seas?

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." "Put on the whole armour of God." Get ready for battle!

A man said me, "The devil has not bothered me for over ten long years."

I said, "Brother I wouldn't tell that. A man is mighty sorry when the devil doesn't want him."

The devil hounded the steps of Jesus Christ for all the years of His earthly life, and you are going to have to face all Hell when you start. But you do not have to fight alone. The One who was always victorious can give you victory.

Everybody ever born into this world was challenged by the devil, and he knocked out everybody who ever went into the ring with him. He knocked out Abraham. He knocked out Moses. He knocked out Lot and all the rest of them. One day a little Baby was born in Bethlehem. He was afraid that a champion had been born and he tried to kill Him when He was a baby. But that Baby grew up and one day challenged the devil. I believe Jesus challenged the devil; I do not believe the devil deliberately faced Him. I believe the Son of God challenged the devil. He went into the ring and knocked him out three times. The devil is not champion any more. Ever since he was knocked out by the Son of God, the Son of God is Champion!

You do not have to fight the devil alone. Nobody who is a Christian is alone. Every time I have to go He says, "I am right here with you; do not be uneasy. He is afraid of Me. Resist him. In My strength resist him!"

God never told you to run from the devil. God said, "Flee youthful lusts." But God did not tell you to run from the devil. God tells you to make the devil run from you. He says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

God Cares for His Children

I have thought about Daniel. The people said to him, "You will have to go back on God."

Daniel said, "Somehow I just don't think I can go back on God."

They hid out to watch him, and when time for prayer came old Daniel did not bluster and boast.

He just went and knelt with his face toward Jerusalem.

They said, "He is doing what he was told not to do. He did not take orders from the king. Get the lions hungry; we will get rough with him."

So they took old Daniel and threw him in a lion's den. Great big, shaggy, hungry lions came up and began to smell him. I can

imagine that Daniel said, "Ain't you going to eat me?"

They said, "You know, we don't want any dinner today. We are really a little nauseated. We don't know what is the matter."

Daniel looked around there was an angel. The angel said, "Daniel, wouldn't you like to take a nap?"

Daniel said, "Well, I am getting along in years. It is not easy for me to sleep out of my own bed. I have such a good pillow. It was made especially for me."

The angel said, "I will fix you the best pillow you ever had."

Then to one of the lions he said, "Come here, big boy. Come on over here and lie down and stretch out." Then to the rest of the lions he said, "Get on over yonder in the corner. Go on over there. Get on over there in the corner and lie down!" They all went over and laid down like babies in their mothers' laps. Then I think the angel said, "Daniel, come over here and put your head on the neck of this lion and go to sleep."

I imagine Daniel looked at him and said, "Would you mind moving him around just a little—just a little?"

The angel said, "Why do you want me to do that, Daniel?"

Daniel said, "I want to sleep with my face toward Jerusalem." And he laid his head down on the neck of the shaggy lion and went to sleep. As he slept he was fanned by zephyrs from the wings of angels and kissed by spirits from the world celestial. In his dreams he read his title clear to mansions in the sky.

If you go with Jesus you may have to go to a lion's den; but, bless God, you will not be alone.

Because the Hebrew children would not go back on God they were put in a fiery furnace. Suppose somebody told you you would be put in a fiery furnace. Suppose you had that test? You talk about Judas Iscariot's selling Jesus for thirty pieces of silver—there are church members in Chicago who have sold Him for less than that; and they were not even decent enough to hang themselves after they did it!

The Hebrew children said, "We'll have to go to the fire." And they were thrown into the fire. As they were thrown in, God Almighty leaned over the battlements of Heaven and blew that fire down the throats of those who threw them in. When you try to put a child of God in the fire, God will blow the fire down your own throat, too. A child of God is as dear to God as the apple of His eye. You had better not be tampering with the children of God.

The Hebrew children began to walk around in the furnace. One of them said, "This certainly is a lovely spring day, isn't it? I thought it was going to be hot today, didn't you? But it is the most beautiful spring day I have ever seen." Listen! Every furnace is a spring day when God's child walks through the fire with God!

Paul and Silas were in jail at midnight. Their feet were in stocks and their backs were lacerated. After a while Silas said, "Paul, are you asleep?"

Paul said, "No, Silas, I am not asleep."

"Paul, do you feel bad? Does your back hurt much? Is there anything I can do for you? May I rub your back a little?"

Paul said, "No, Silas; I was not thinking about that. I was thinking about the goodness of God. Wasn't it wonderful for Jesus to die for us? Isn't it wonderful to be down here in jail for Him? Silas, let's sing something."

Silas said, "All right. You raise the tune." And they sang. I do not know what they sang. It must have been some of the Psalms. I imagine that today it would have been

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time

All the light of sacred story
Gathers 'round its head sub-lime.

Or it might have been

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follow'r of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,

Or blush to speak His name?

But anybody can sing in a dungeon with feet in stock and back lacerated when God the Holy Ghost is there. And God the Holy

Ghost is always there when the child of God is there.

Enjoying Your Scars

My old father was shot through the right knee on the battlefield of Chickamauga. He was a Confederate soldier. I used to think he thought more of his crippled knee than he did of my mother or any child he had! He used to sit and talk to the soldiers who fought above the line and the soldiers who fought below the line. They would talk about their scars. I am not sorry for soldiers who get wounded. I am sorry for the boys who come home without any scars, because if every soldier enjoys his scars as my father did his, they miss a lot of fun when they do not get hit!

My father and his friends would sit and talk. One man would tell about losing a leg at one place and would get up and walk around on the old peg. Another man would shake an empty sleeve. My father could not wait to get his story in. After a while he would get up and show the Yankees how they shot him. He would explain just how the bullet went through and how he wondered why it did not cripple him for life. He would limp a little and show them how it happened.

We had a neighbor who, my father said, was the bravest soldier he ever saw in battle. He went through four years of the war and never got a scratch. I used to be sorry for that man. All the other men would brag about getting hit and he would blush because he did not have any scars to show for the battles.

I think it would be embarrassing to go to Heaven and look at the brow of the Son of God, look at His hands when He lifted them up, get a little peek at His side; and then look all over my body and find no scars. Say! How many scars do you have because you have followed the Son of God?

When I was a boy an old country preacher told me a story. It has stayed with me. I have never forgotten it. He said that in a certain American city there was a wicked, drunken infidel man with a drunken, infidel wife. They had a sweet little girl; and they swore she should never go to church, never hear the gospel and never see a Bible. The only time she ever heard the name of Jesus was when she heard it upon the profane lips of her family and the neighbors around her.

One day she went down the street on an errand and passed a mission door. She heard singing. She listened to the song. The music in her own heart responded, and she asked what the song meant. The mission worker told her the story of Jesus, took her inside the door and got her down on her knees. She trusted Jesus.

She went home so happy. Not knowing her mother and daddy knew the story she ran into the house and said, "Oh, Daddy; the most wonderful thing has happened to me!" She told him about being saved.

The father was drunk and he whipped her. Her little dress, stained with blood, stuck to her wounded, bleeding back. That night the mother undressed her, bathed her, put a little oil on the scars and put her to bed. The next morning the little girl awoke up with a fever. A doctor was called. He said she had pneumonia. He kept coming to see her, and several days later he took the mother and father to one side and told them there was no hope. They, one on either side of the bed, stood there and watched their little girl. They loved her. They were just poor, miserable sinners. The father was sober now, and the mother was sober.

The mother said, "Darling, do you want anything?" The little girl said, "Mother, you remember the dress I had on when Daddy whipped me."

"Yes, Darling; I remember."

"Mother, h-h-has that dress been washed yet?"

The mother said, "No, Darling. Mother hasn't sent the clothes out this week."

"Well, Mother, could I see that dress?"

The mother said, "Yes, I will go get it for you."

The mother went to the soiled clothes, took the little, bloody dress out and brought it in. The little girl took it in her hand and

said, "Mother, may I have the scissors?"

The mother said, "Yes, Darling. Mother will get you the scissors." She brought them to her. The little girl took the scissors in her hand and said, "Mother, you don't mind, do you? You don't mind if I cut out a little piece of this bloody cloth?"

The mother said, "No, Darling; but what do you want with it?"

She said, "Mother, I don't understand; but I think I am dying. You know I trusted Jesus and Daddy whipped me. But I can't help loving Jesus. I don't know much about it; but, Mother, if you don't mind I'd like to take a little piece of this bloody cloth."

She clipped the little piece of bloody cloth and then died.

When I think of all He did for me and remember that I have no scars on my body I am ashamed. I have never been in jail for Him. I sometimes almost envy the martyrs that have had to die.

He is calling you Christians tonight to walk with Him. It may be that He is calling you to walk with Him through valleys, temptations, sorrows and trouble. He is calling some of you young people and some of you older ones

who have wandered away from Him to come back to Him. And He is calling some of you who have never known Him to go with Him. Let's do it. What do you say?

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Remember --

(Continued from Page 1)

world like the poverty of a man who does not have gratitude; who does not have a happy, grateful heart. If you are not grateful, you are certainly poor indeed. The one who does not have gratitude does not have much of anything, and the things he does have he does not care about.

There are men who have good wives who love them, and yet they are not thankful to God. There are men who have good, strong bodies and yet who are never grateful to God for them. What a sin that is! There are people who have families, people who have jobs, people who have good health, people who have friends, people who hear the gospel, people who have a chance to be saved, who do not have gratitude.

Here are all the glories of the sunset. But here is a man who is blind—he does not have any sunset. Here is a man who hears symphonic music, hears the harmony of wonderful voices and instruments. But here is another man who is deaf. It does not do him any good. So the man who is ungrateful is the man who does not have any blessings. He is the poorest mortal who ever lived. The Bible says, "forget not all his benefits." David said to himself, "Don't you forget all the good things of God," and then went on to say, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies." Do not forget God's mercy. Let us have a thankful heart. Memorial Day is a time to remember.

It used to be a favorite fantasy, a little gesture, to send cards with forget-me-nots on them. Sometimes that alone would be a greeting. Many times lovers have written in quotations at the bottom of their letters, alongside the little crosses that are meant to represent kisses, "Forget-me-not." So on Memorial Day people remember their dead. Let us remember Jesus Christ and remember God's mercies—remember His blessings.

Remember the Death of Christ

Here is another thing to notice: we are to remember the death of Christ. Oh, that is one thing we ought never to forget. Does the Bible say that? Yes. Jesus said, when the little group had gathered together in that upper room and He gave them the Lord's Supper, the memorial supper: "This do in remembrance of me." (I Cor. 11:24). So everybody who ever takes the Lord's Supper is guilty of terrible sin—he eats and drinks to his own damnation, the Bible says—if he does not remember that Jesus died, that His body was broken, that His precious blood was poured out; if he does not feel, "This grapejuice pictures the blood of the Saviour; this bread pictures His broken body." Oh, remember the death of the Saviour! It is significant that one of the ordinances, one of the pictures, one of the two object lessons the Lord gave to the church has in particular to do with the broken body and the shed blood. There is no Christianity without a crucified Christ. Our friends of one sect say that the blood of Jesus Christ was no more efficacious when it was poured out on Calvary than it was when it was in His veins. They forget that the Bible expressly says, "... without shedding of blood is no remission" of sins—not blood in the veins of the God-man, but blood poured out before God as a sacrifice as an atonement for man's sins. Do not forget the blood! If next Sunday you and your little church gather together and pass the cup, look down on that blood-red grapejuice and say, "The precious blood of Christ was poured out for me. The precious blood! Oh, may I never, never forget it! Jesus said, 'This do in remembrance of me, and as I take this bit of broken bread

I remember that Christ is the Bread from Heaven. He is the Bread which came down from Heaven. He is the Bread of Life. He who was God, is my Bread of Life. His body was broken for me." Remember Jesus in His death.

Remember Christ's Wonderful Resurrection

Another ordinance that the Lord gave us as a constant reminder is of His burial and resurrection. We are told in I Corinthians 15:3-4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scripture."

Baptism is a reminder of that burial and resurrection. Nobody should be baptized until he has been saved. That is making a lie out of a most holy thing. That is saying something he does not mean. But after one has trusted Christ, he ought to follow the Lord in baptism. The Scripture says in the sixth chapter of Romans that we are buried in the likeness of his death and raised in the likeness of his resurrection.

Let us forget for a moment any differences of opinion about the method of baptism. I am not discussing that. I want you to see what Jesus said. When you are baptized, you should say, "We are burying this old sinner. He is dead." You should raise up out of that watery grave to say, "Jesus arose from the dead and I am

raised up to live a new life." The Scripture says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom. 6:4-5). Every Christian ought to go about daily praising God that Jesus rose from the dead and that this risen Christ lives in you. You have the resurrected Saviour in you.

When Lazarus was dead and Jesus came back to Mary and Martha, Martha said, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection."

If you want to know it, John Rice has the resurrection walking around in him all the time. Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, is mine; and I am His, bless God! And so I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. We ought to remember the resurrected, living Saviour. He was dead but is alive again!

People argue about whether baptism saves or does not save. They argue about whether it should be done in a tank or with a spoonful of water on the head, and they forget the main thing, that baptism is to picture that the Saviour has died, that He was buried and that He rose again. I have the resurrected Saviour as my Saviour. I can live a resurrected life. I can go about now as one raised from the dead. In

some sense I am not the same man.

It is said that St. Augustine, the learned doctor of Hippo, the great Catholic father (and if you want to read the Confessions of Augustine, you will find that he was really genuinely converted) when he was converted lived in North Africa. After that he went away and was gone for a great while. When he came back a woman of the street, a girl with whom he had sinned, saw him and called to him. He turned his back and went away, but she came running after him and said, "Augustine, Augustine, it is I!"

He turned and said, "Yes, but this is not I. This is another man; it is not the one you knew," and went away. It was a new Augustine. It was the one who had been buried and was risen again. He did not need the old way of life and did not want it. Oh, remember the resurrected Saviour!

A newsboy one day stood looking in a window of an art gallery. He was gazing at a famous painting of the crucified Saviour, when a man with cynical face came by and also looked at the fascinating painting. The boy began to talk to the stranger. He said, "Yes, they killed Him, mister. They killed Him!" The man, to draw the boy out, began to ask him questions. But the boy said, "Yes, they hated Him and nailed Him to a cross. They killed Him. They ought not to have done it, sir. It was a wicked thing—they ought not to have done it!" The man

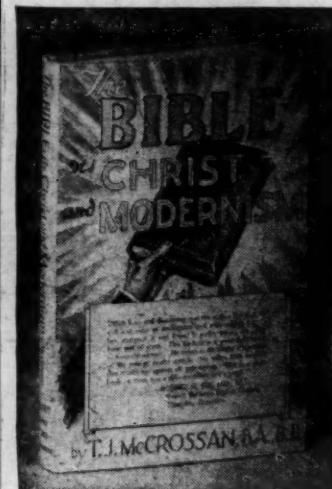
started away. As he walked away the newsboy ran after him and said, "Hey, mister. I forgot to tell you that He did not stay dead!"

Thank God, Jesus did not stay dead! He is risen from the dead, and you and I can say, "Thank God, Jesus did not stay dead; and I did not stay dead either. Jesus saved me. He came in to live in me, and the Spirit of God that raiseth Christ from the dead will raise up these mortal bodies, likewise." You are looking on a fellow who is headed for eternity. You are looking now on a fellow who has the resurrection and the life in him. It is not all manifested now; one day it will be. I am destined to rise from the dead as Jesus did. I am going to be changed in a moment and caught up to meet Him. Remember the resurrected Saviour!

Remember the Word of God

Another thing I want you to remember is the Word. In Acts, chapter 20, we are told that Paul called the elders of the church of Ephesus together and gave them a lecture. He said, "I am free from the blood of all men. I spent three years—I went publicly from house to house night and day with tears. I am free from the blood of all men, and I want to tell you brethren, you preachers, how to rule the church." He went on to say in verse 32: "And now, brethren, I command you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Then in

(Continued on Page 6)



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Remember --

(Continued from Page 5)

verses 35 and 36 we read: "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring we ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Oh, remember the words of the Lord Jesus!

"Remember" on this Memorial Day. You should remember your Creator. You should remember His benefits, His blessings. That is what the Memorial Supper is for. The Saviour Himself said, "This do in remembrance of me." I said that you should remember the death of Christ. I said that you should remember that baptism is a picture of His death, burial and resurrection. If we are "planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

Then we should remember the words of the Lord Jesus. The Scripture says, "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said..." (Acts 20:35). I treasure in my heart every word I can get from some people. I have read everything I could find about D. L. Moody. I have wanted to hear everybody talk about him who ever told me he was in their home or that they had heard him preach. It has been even so about Dr. R. A. Torrey. I met his godly widow. I talked to her and told her how glad I was she came to hear me preach. I told her what a wonderful blessing her husband's written ministry had been to me. Every word I can hear about some of those saints of God who used to win thousands, I treasure. So it ought to be about the Lord Jesus. We ought to remember the words of the Lord Jesus.

I remember my mother. It seems remarkable to me as I look back that I should remember some of the songs my mother sang. How I treasure them! I remember some of the things about her looks. I remember so well how she used to churn with an old dasher churn and keep time as she sang,

I'm glad salvation's free

I'm glad salvation's free. I remember the last words my mother said as she lay dying. I can quote them, I think, word for word. I remember her skin, so transparent and pale. I remember her big eyes, her long, black braided hair which lay on her pillow beside her when she folder her arms and went to sleep in Jesus. Everything I remember about my mother, I treasure.

A year or two ago my sister wanted to give me a present for my birthday. Do you know what she did? She got a little picture of my mother, had it enlarged and framed. I wept with joy over it. If I treasure a word from a mother who has been these forty odd years in Heaven, shouldn't I treasure every word of the Lord Jesus? Oh, the Bible, the Word of God! I am not much of a preacher; I am not much of a Christian. But I thank God that I love the Word. I wish I loved it better. But I tell you the truth; this old Bible and the one before that and the one before that — this Book with its dirty pages, this Book with finger marks and tear marks and pencil marks — many and many is the time I have had it by my bedside on the bedside table and have turned over in the night and have reached out to get it. Sometimes I have gone to sleep with it hugged to my heart. Sometimes when the burdens are heavy I get it and put it under my pillow and seem to rest better because the sweet Word of God is there. Oh, may God make that more than a form and ceremony!

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said..." What anybody else says is not going to be worth so much, but what the Word of God says, what Jesus said, is what counts! So while you are remembering, remember the Word. David said, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Remembering the Word of Jesus will

keep you from sin, will help you to live right and help you to have power.

What I am talking about is the one secret, the all-inclusive secret of perfect success. Remember that the first Psalm says that the man who does not do certain things is blessed, and then goes on to say, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." His roots are down in the waters all the time, his leaves never do get wilted and withered, and he brings forth fruit in his season. Everything a Christian, who meditates all the time in the Word of God and remembers the Word of God, puts his hands to will be blessed, and whatsoever he does will prosper.

Have you read the story of King Midas? You will recall that everything he touched turned to gold. That was all very well until one day he called his little girl to him. When he put his hand on her head, she turned to gold. I know the secret of having everything you put a hand to turn to blessing. If you remember the Word of God; if you follow your soul, soak your personality in it; if you meditate in it day and night, you will find perfect blessing and success. So "remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said..." On Memorial Day, remember the words of the Lord Jesus.

Remember Christ's Imminent Coming

Here is another thing: remember that Jesus is coming. I am not making these things up. I find them in the Bible. "Well," you say, "where do you find that?" Many places, but one is in Matthew 24:42: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Watch! Watch! Watch for what? Watch for Jesus' coming. The Scripture goes on to say, "Wherefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him and in an hour that he is not aware of. And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said, "Remember."

In Matthew we read, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Don't forget that Jesus is coming. I do not know when. I do not like the term that people use, "Jesus is coming soon." That indicates a certain length of time that is within a certain small limit. I do not know whether I could say He is coming soon. He may come sooner than that. He may come at this moment. Bless God, I would be glad to see Him! I know my sins are forgiven and that I am ready to see Him. I have not won all the souls I wish I had. I have not been as good a man as I wish I had. But I would be glad to see Him today. But watch; be ready! Jesus is coming! Don't say He is

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coming today—we do not know. Don't say He is coming this year. We do not know. Don't say He is coming during the next ten years. Nobody knows. But you can say, "He is coming, and I am going to remember that. I am going to live in the light of the imminence of His coming. It may be at any moment."

O Lord Jesus, how long, how long
Ere we shout the glad song
Christ returneth!
Hallelujah! hallelujah! Amen.

Hallelujah. Amen.
I do not know when it will be.
It may be at morn, when the day
is awaking.

When sunlight thro' darkness
and shadow is breaking,
That Jesus will come in the full-
ness of glory,
To receive from the world "His
own."

It may be at midday, it may be
at twilight,
It may be, perchance, that the
blackness of midnight
Will burst into light in the blaze
of His glory,

When Jesus receives "His own."

Now I have a closing word, very simple and short. Do you want to remember Jesus? Remember your Creator, remember His blessings, remember His death, remember His resurrection, remember His Word, remember His coming. In Hell you are going to remember if you do not remember now, if you do not turn to put your trust in Jesus and be saved. In Hell the rich man cried for a drop of water to cool his tongue and Abraham from Heaven said, "Son, remember." Down in Hell you will remember your opportunities. Oh, do not wait until then; remember now. May God speak to your heart. Why don't you say, "Lord Jesus, today I will trust you. I will give you my heart. I will take you"? And let every Christian remember the Lord Jesus.

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The "Askability" --

(Continued from Page 1)

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Man's Inability Calls for Prayer

We must realize our inability, to learn God's ability in doing the impossible today. Today (in our churches, five percent of reported members do not exist, ten percent cannot be found, twenty percent never pray, twenty-five percent never read the Bible, thirty percent never attend church services, forty percent never give to any cause, fifty percent never go to Sunday School, sixty percent never go to church on Sunday night, seventy percent never give to missions, seventy-five percent never engage in any church activity, eighty per cent never attend the prayer meeting, ninety percent never have family worship in the home and ninety-five percent never win a soul to Jesus Christ! We cannot correct this situation except by God's mighty power, but in this darkened day God can do it only if we will allow Him the opportunity.

Our little hands will never stop the rushing flow of juvenile delinquency; our puny strength will never be able to stem the tide of sin in the homes of today; our strength will never be able to stay the flood of skepticism, but God can do it! Our inability steps aside for God's ability, and we watch for miracles.

Eloquent Chrysostom from yesterday's wisdom reminds us, "The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire. It has bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged disease, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm; it is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings."

In the language of this day, prayer is Heaven's latch-string. In the hills of the great southland, we see latch-strings hanging out through a hole in the door in many mountain cottages. As you pull that little rope it lifts the latch on the inside. There is no other lock. There is no other handle. However, if the people do not want guests, they merely pull the rope through the hole in the door. If the latch string is hanging out, the door is open to all in hearty welcome. So God's latch string is always hanging within the reach of faith. Prayer is verily Heaven's latch string. Thus the inability of man can appropriate the ability of God by pulling the latch-string of prayer.

Because of the inability of man the responsibility of prayer is great upon the hearts of those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who has a vision of the need of the day will become a person of prayer. Look upon the multitudes rushing on into eternal judgment; see how many in the church have only "name faith" in Jesus Christ, estimate how many never open the old fashioned Bible or never bend the knee to Christ. Consider the average man who seldom thinks of the things of God. As we view the cesspools of sin in this darkened age the responsibility of prayer is heavy upon us.

When General Grant, that famous old man of war, lay slowly dying of cancer at Mt. McGregor, he was visited by an esteemed

out of sin unto the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE the remarkable askability of faith in the lifted hands of great Wesley; the pleading of Bramwell; the words of praying Hyde, the burning petitions of Stoner, Smith, Carvosso, Finney, Fox, Edwards and yesterday's many giants of prayer!

It is our responsibility to really pray. God commands it; God explains it; God illustrates it; God prompts it; God expects it; God hears it and God answers it. Prayer brings peace in adversity, security during danger, joy in trouble and faith in dense darkness. You know if you tell your troubles to God you will soon have joys to tell to people, so pray. God awaits it. The askability of faith will bring tremendous blessing. God can answer.

Prayer in the Bible

Look at the word of God in I Cor. 7:5, "Give yourself to prayer"; in Eph. 6:18, "Praying always"; in Acts 1:14, "They continued in prayer"; and the injunction of Col. 4:2, "Continue in prayer and watch" . . . the crisis is acute; the danger is imminent; the only answer in our day for the heart is revival power from God's hand and the only means is prayer. The book says, "In everything, by prayer, let your requests be made known unto God"; (Phil. 4:6). Abraham prayed for mercy on Sodom and God spared. David asked for blessings on his house. Elijah prayed for the widow's son's restoration; Elisha for a double portion of Elijah's power; Ezekiel for his people; Habakkuk prayed for a national revival; Hannah for the gift of a son; Jeremiah for provision and comfort; Jonah for deliverance from the great fish; Manoah for guidance in training his young son Samson. Samson prayed for physical strength; Solomon for wisdom to govern for God.

In the New Testament: the apostles prayed for faith; Bartimaeus foresight; the father of the lunatic for his son's health; Jairus for his little daughter; the centurion for his servant; the lepers for cleansing; the prodigal for forgiveness. Their askability of faith always met with the wonderful ANSWERABILITY of God. The promise of God is, "Ask and ye shall receive," and then the chiding of God is, "Ye have not because ye ask not," (and when you do ask) "you ask amiss to consume it upon your own desires." Our asking should be according to God's plan so that we might know the tremendous answerability of God.

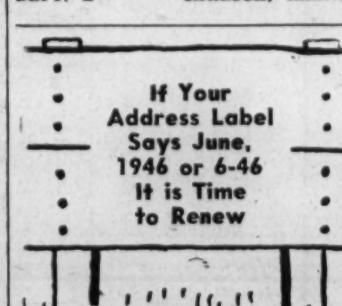
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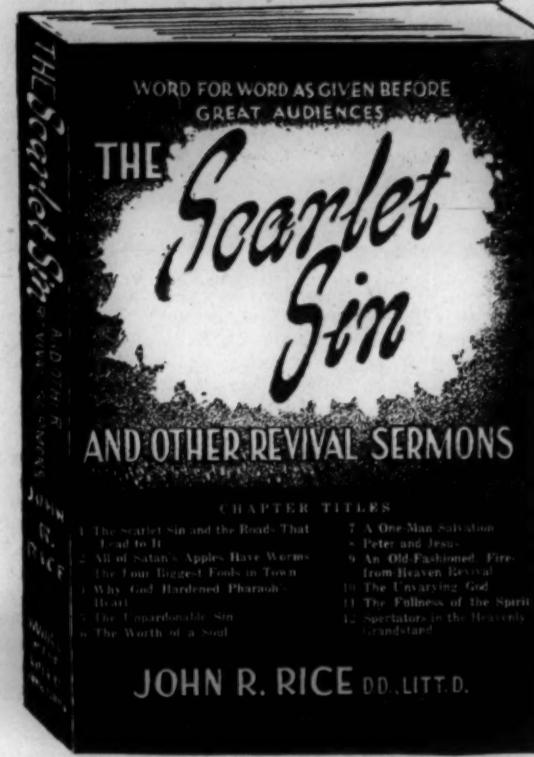
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The "Askability" --

(Continued from Page 7)

people had prayed all night for that hour with power.

Charles H. Spurgeon, when asked why he had so many converts, opened the door to a room in the tabernacle where on their knees were hundreds of people praying. He said, "This is the heating apparatus of my church." Pundita Ramabai of India instituted the prayer tower, where prayer was made 24 hours daily and soon over 900 were swept into the family of God. You know revivals are born in the labor pains of prayer. History proves it and Isaiah 66:8 says, "For as soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children," and if we will pray with the "askability" of faith we will know the wonderful "answerability" of an omnipotent God. God can give the answer if we will simply ask in faith. If your "prayer-life" is full, your "worry life" will be empty; for the Book reminds us, "In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Joshua saw the answerability of God when the Jordan held back its waters. Moses saw the answerability of God when the Red Sea became dry land for the footstep of his people. Daniel saw the answerability of God when he could decipher the prophecies that only God could explain.

In like measure (in this day and time) we can see the answerability of God. In relation to our boys and girls and the great youth problem in our cities of sin, the answerability of God is the only solution. God alone can meet the need of these hungry young people who know not the way of truth. The answerability of God may be ours in relation to our families if there are problems and burdens and hardships and heartaches in the home. Only God has that solution, but God has it if we will exercise the askability of prayer. The answerability of God will be felt in our nation and among our leaders even in the political problems of the day if we (as God's people) will pray. Our nation can be spared in time of war and in time of peace only by power of God. God has the answer for every need; individual, congregational, national, and world-wide!

If you are a Christian, pray for personal cleansing from carelessness, callousness and compromise. If you are not really born again, the prayer of simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can bring forth the answer of a mighty God transforming you from a sinner into a saint; out of darkness into His marvelous light; from under the load of sin unto the joy and peace which comes in His power. Man has the need; God has the answer. Prayer is the link which brings the two together. By faith we pray. By power He answers. The solution is ours through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Seven little girls who had accepted the Lord Jesus in one of our crusades in South Dakota approached me and asked if I would pray with them for the fourteen unsaved parents. We knelt together by the primary chairs of that Sunday School and poured out our hearts to God. Believe it or not, the simplicity of faith of those tiny girls brought to fruition real salvation in all those families before another week had passed. "Ye have not because ye ask not." God could do the same for your homes and for your families.

When Benjamin Franklin Called the Constitutional Convention to Prayer

Life's editors give the following historic account. "During an impasse at the Constitutional Convention in June, 1787, Benjamin Franklin addressed the chairman (George Washington) as follows: 'The small progress we have made ... is, methinks, a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding. ... I have

lived, sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that GOD governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe, that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." Franklin then moved that daily prayers be offered before the Assembly again got down to business. The motion was lost, but not because these men did not believe in prayer. To avoid sectarian controversy and for other practical reasons, they preferred to pray in private. But they prayed.

"There is no human calculus of the effectiveness of prayer. Today Congress opens every session with a prayer. Its sessions may be no very persuasive testimonial to the practice, but perhaps that only means that too few congressmen really pray. Judging by the large number of homes in which grace is said at meals, the habit of prayer is probably commoner among average Americans than their leaders sometimes suppose. At the United Nations sessions there are no prayers at all. Granted the problem of interfaith etiquette, can anyone think prayers are not needed there?

"The true Christian does not measure his praying by its visible results. Jesus' promise is enough: 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' From his confidence in that promise comes the Christian's strength and the reason why he prays. Whether his prayer is joyful or desperate, it always gives him more certainty about what is right and what is wrong. No world-made trouble, not even today's, can resist the moral analysis of Christian prayer. It is a thought for all who are troubled, including statesmen."

The tiny girl loved her grandfather's beautiful garden, every one of the perfect roses that he so carefully tended day by day. They had one favorite rose still in the bud. They were waiting patiently to see it in full bloom when one day the grandfather came out to look at the choice rose only to find it torn open with all of the soft petals broken and pressed back until the inside was bare to the sun.

The grandfather asked the little girl, "What happened to the rose, darling?" The little girl said, "Grandpa, I couldn't wait any longer so I BLOSSOMED IT MYSELF."

She had tried to do with her tiny little fingers and her immature mind what only God could have done to bring forth into full blossom the beauty of a completed rose. Adults make the same mistake in the spiritual realm. We try to do what only God can do.

The inability of man is often forgotten. God has said, "Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord."

Again, I repeat it for your heart, the askability of faith will prove the answerability of Almighty God.

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One God In One Book

By Rev. Bob Jones, Jr., D.D., LL.D.

Rather frequently you hear someone say, "I believe in the teachings of Jesus, but I cannot accept the inspiration of the Old Testament. I believe in the sort of life which Jesus lived and in God as He revealed Him, but I cannot believe in the cruel God of the Old Testament. The New Testament I will accept, but I cannot accept the Old." Actually, the man who makes this statement knows very little about God at all. The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New is one God. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God—God incarnate in the flesh—is Himself the Creator of the universe; for we are told that "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). He declares, "I and My Father are One" (John 10:30); "he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). He identifies Himself very clearly with the Eternal God, the God of both the Old and the New Testament, when He declares "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

God is eternal and unchanging, "the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He is a God of infinite majesty, infinite justice, infinite purity, infinite love. A parent may manifest his love for a child in discipline and restraint and punishment as definitely as he does by caress and affection and tender speeches. In the Old Testament, God gives men laws which are as much an evidence of His love for men as the grace which He manifests in the death of the Lord Jesus in the New.

Suppose a father, knowing that river is turbulent and dangerous and full of whirlpools, says to his son, "You must not swim here." He forbids his son to swim in the river because he knows the dangers that are there; but when the son, disobedient to his father's commands, swims anyway and is

sucked down by the whirlpool and is at the point of drowning, the father leaps in and at the risk of his own life saves his son. So God establishes in the Old Testament His law for the good of the creatures which He has made; but when they, disobedient, violate His law and are thereby lost and undone, He comes in the Person of the Saviour, that on the cross He may rescue them from death and sin.

No, there is no difference between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New. He is One. The man who says, "I don't accept the God of the Old Testament, but I believe in the God of Jesus," shows that he knows nothing at all about either Jesus Christ or His Father. Our Lord Himself said this of those who refused to accept the words of Moses in the Old Testament: "If ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My Words?" (John 5:47.) The man who rejects Moses' testimony of God cannot accept the revelation of God in Christ Jesus, for Christ is the God about whom Moses wrote.

—The Fellowship News

Pastors Rejoice in E. Liverpool Revival

By the Editor

Dr. Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor of *The Sword of the Lord*, with Rev. Henry Holmbo, song leader, recently had a blessed union campaign in East Liverpool, Ohio, with hundreds of souls saved. Recent letters from pastors will be of interest to readers.

Dr. W. S. Longsworth, pastor of the Calvary Methodist Church, in a letter of May 25, says:

"I am glad for the opportunity of speaking a word of appreciation for the fine labor of love of Dr. Wells and Henry Holmbo. There were sixteen churches co-operating in the East Liverpool city-wide evangelistic campaign which was sponsored by the Ministerial Association.

"Dr. Wells and Mr. Holmbo are a fine team. Dr. Wells' preaching

is clear, soul-stirring, Biblical and instructive. They are co-operative, fair, unselfish and untiring in their labor of love for the Lord. They have a real concern for the unsaved. In a meeting of ministers at the close of the campaign it was agreed that never were there two finer men to work with.

"We had a few over four hundred decisions for Christ in the three weeks. The crowds were good inspite of a bus strike the last ten days of our meeting.

"As chairman of the campaign and president of the Ministerial Association, I have never met a minister that was more Christ-like than Dr. Wells. He is so considerate of the feelings and appreciative of the efforts of others."

From the First Baptist Church of East Liverpool, Rev. Paul Tidball wrote Dr. Wells on May 23 as follows:

"Praise the Lord for the heart-stirring revival that was recently conducted in our city by you and Brother Holmbo. My own heart was blessed in a great way. From now on prayer, Bible reading, Bible study and witnessing will be more effective in my life. Many other ministers in this tri-state area were also enriched by your ministry here.

"I rejoice that we had such a fine spirit of co-operation from men of different denominations and theological views. I attribute this to the fact that you exalted the Lord Jesus Christ and presented salvation through faith in His precious blood."

"Our desire is that many more will be saved who heard the precious Word."

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- It closes on the practical application to the Church in relation to the rapture; Christ's coming for His saints prior to His coming with His saints to establish His kingdom: Whose right it is to reign in righteousness, justice and equity.

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